

Senate Bill 152

By: Senators Heath of the 31st, Grant of the 25th, Staton of the 18th, Unterman of the 45th, Williams of the 19th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state building, plumbing, electrical, and other codes, so as to provide for the security of certain records; to amend Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to inspection of public records, so as to provide that certain engineering and construction drawings, plans, and critical data shall not be subject to public disclosure; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 2 of Article 1 of Chapter 2 of Title 8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to state building, plumbing, electrical, and other codes, is amended by adding a new Code Section 8-2-26.2 to read as follows:

"8-2-26.2.

It shall be the duty of the governing authority of each county and municipality, building code inspectors, and other appropriate state and local officials to institute procedures to ensure the safe storage and secure handling by local officials and employees having access to or in the possession of engineering and construction drawings and plans containing critical structural components, security equipment and systems, ventilation systems, fire protection equipment, mandatory building emergency equipment or systems, elevators, electrical systems, telecommunications equipment and systems, and other utility equipment and systems submitted for the purpose of complying with any state minimum standard codes as defined in Code Section 8-2-20."

SECTION 2.

Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to inspection of public records, is amended by adding a new paragraph (15.1) to subsection (a)

1 of Code Section 50-18-72, relating to exemptions from the requirements of disclosure of
2 public records, to read as follows:

3 "(15.1) Those portions of engineering and construction drawings and plans that reveal
4 critical structural components, security equipment and systems, ventilation systems, fire
5 protection equipment, mandatory building emergency equipment or systems, elevators,
6 electrical systems, telecommunications equipment and systems, and other utility
7 equipment and systems submitted for the purpose of complying with any state minimum
8 standard codes as defined in Code Section 8-2-20, the disclosure of which would
9 jeopardize the safety or security of any public or private commercial office, multifamily
10 residential building, or retail building or its occupants in the event of terrorism or other
11 threat to public safety, to the extent that the owner or lessee of such property, equipment,
12 or system in writing:

13 (A) Invokes the protections of this paragraph;

14 (B) Identifies the drawings, plans, or other materials to be protected; and

15 (C) States the reasons why protection is necessary;

16 Nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the disclosure of information relating to any
17 building in connection with an inquiry into the performance of that building after it has
18 been subjected to fire, explosion, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event;".

19 SECTION 3.

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.